

THE ROYALSTON COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

March 2010



Volume XIII, Issue II

A Publication of the Friends of the Phineas S. Newton Library, Royalston, Massachusetts

Calendar of Events

March 4 Thursday

3:45 pm **Friends of the Library Meeting.** All welcome

March 5 Friday

7 pm **Open Mic** at Town Hall.. Sign up for a time slot with Jim Bennett at 978-575-1052 or arrive by 6:30 p.m. Free admission and delicious food on sale, thanks to the Royalston Cultural Council.

March 7 Sunday

2 pm **Noted Geologist Richard Little presents "Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents:** the Geology of the Connecticut River Valley." Free. Refreshments. sSponsored by the Cultural Council and the Friends of the Library. See p 4.

March 8 Monday

1-3 pm **The Greek tragedy *Antigone*** performed by Norah Dooley at Town Hall. Norah will tell 5 fables and then help groups of students write their own five-minute version of a Greek tragedy or comedy. The program is aimed at 10-12 year olds. Sponsored by the Royalston Cultural Council.

March 12 Friday

5 p.m. **Fish Fryday** at the Winchendon Rod & Gun. See pg. 8

March 13 Saturday

6 p.m. **St. Paddy's Dinner and Pot'o'Gold drawing** at the Town Hall, by the Ladies' Benevolent Society. See p. 8

March 14 Sunday

2 a.m. **Daylight Savings Time** begins – Time to change batteries in smoke, carbon monoxide and radon detectors.

March 17 Wednesday **St. Patrick's Day**

March 18 Thursday

3:30 - 4:30 **Cross Culture Club** kicks off with a visit to **Surinam** with Elizabeth Farnsworth, who will have just returned from this northern South American country. Food, fun and culture for free. RCS kids can take the bus to the Phineas Newton Library with a note.

March 20 Saturday **Vernal Equinox**

The first day of spring is one thing, and the first spring day is another. The difference between them is sometimes as great as a month.
Henry Van Dyke, Fisherman's Luck (1899)

7 p.m.ish **BLITZ** at the Royalston Fish & Game

March 21 Sunday

2 p.m. **One-Day Pitch Tournament** at the Royalston F&G

March 22 Monday **Indian New Year (Saka) 1932**

March 24 Wednesday

7 pm **Village School Science Night** . Since January, students have tested original hypotheses and undergone peer review. Now they are ready to show and explain their work. Everyone is welcome.

March 26 Friday

7 pm. **Travel through the eyes of pilgrim and Royalston resident, Patrizia De Libero**, who is led by an inner calling to places where sacredness is a real experience, including Tibet, Nepal, India, Uzbekistan, the Middle East, and Africa. Presented at the Phineas S Newton Library. Free. Refreshments.

March 28 Palm Sunday

March 29 Monday

10:25 p.m. **Full Worm Moon**

March 30 Tuesday **First Day of Passover**

March 31 Wednesday



Dogs should be licensed by this date. To get a tag, bring a copy of your dog's updated rabies certificate to the Town Clerk's Office. Licenses are \$6.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$10.00 for an unaltered dog.

6 p.m. – 9 p.m. **Ladies' Benevolent Society Craft-n-Chat Social** at the Town Hall; organize last minute Blood Donor Day details – All invited to participate.

April 1 Thursday **April Fools Day**

3:30 - 4:30 **Cross Culture Club visits Bosnia** with Athol High School exchange student and musician Edin Huljdek. Food, fun and culture for free. RCS kids can take the bus to the library with a note.

April 3 Saturday

10 am **Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting** . All welcome. Free. Want to help? Donations of candy or cash can be left at the town library or store. Call 978-249-4639 to volunteer time.

April 4 Easter Sunday

Royalston Fire and EMS News



Thanks to all who supported the annual Fire & EMS Association Breakfast Buffet, held Feb. 21 at the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club. Generous support from the business community and individuals made it a \$1,000 fundraiser, with proceeds going towards the purchase of a Rescue Boat that will help rescuers safely navigate Royalston's many and varied bodies of water.

Special thanks first to the Winchendon Rod & Gun Club for donating the use of its facility. Thanks also to the Country Hen for eggs, and Adams' Farm and Slaughterhouse for donations of both link and patty sausages. Bear's Dairy Service provided fresh, cold milk and chocolate milk; Dean's Beans donated the coffee. Fire & EMS member Jayne Porter donated the home fries and John and Elizabeth Phelps provided the fruit cocktail.



Town Clerk News

Melanie Mangum, Town Clerk

Mondays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION NEWS:

The Annual Town Election will be held Monday, April 5. Polls open at 10 a.m. and close at 8 p.m. Please call the Town Clerk if you have a question about your voter registration.

The following are candidates who have returned nomination papers or signed blanket nomination papers for the Annual Town Election:


- John W. Morse, III – Selectman, 3 years
- Melanie A. Mangum – Town Clerk, 3 years
- Chester H. Hall, III – Board of Health, 3 years
- Mary L. Freden – Library Trustee, 3 years
- Kimberly N. MacPhee – Planning Board, 3 years
- Curtis A. Deveneau – Sewer Commission, 3 years
- John M. Divoll – Constable, 3 years
- Roland G. Hamel – Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund, one year
- Roy A. Smith, Jr. – Trustees of J. N. Bartlett Fund, one year
- Roland G. Hamel – Board of Public Welfare, 3 years
- Chester H. Hall, III – Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Royalston – Three years
- Nancy D. Melbourne – Athol-Royalston Regional School Committee – Royalston – One Year

The following positions have no candidates currently running:

- Assessor – 3 years
- Cemetery Commissioner – 3 years
- Trustees of J.N. Bartlett Fund – 2 positions of one year each

Dog Licensing


The Dog Licensing season is open, and runs through March 31, 2010. To license your dog, bring a copy of its updated rabies certificate to the Town Clerk's Office. Licenses are \$6.00 for a spayed/neutered dog and \$10.00 for an unaltered dog.



Dowsing
Jon Hardie 978-575-1454
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www.demarmachine.com
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Rich DeMar

Signs of the Times

The library is turning 100 years old, and as a commemoration, the Friends of the library and Stephen Chase Contracting are restoring the roadside sign on the granite pillar on the Common. Other ideas for celebration include a living history day at the library, a ball where patrons come dressed as book characters, a time capsule, speeches and hoopla, a croquet match, a tennis tournament, and something not quite defined but definitely involving good food. Share your ideas by dropping by the library or its Friends meetings, held on the 1st Thursday of the month at 3:45 pm.

April 8 , 1954
February 23, 2010

“Fuller’s Paint Shop, Inc.”
Stephen Chase



April 8 '54 "Fullers Paint Shop, Inc



ed note: Mr. Fullers photo, along with others like it displaying 20th century Royalston history, is available for perusal in the Town Scrapbook at the library.

Board of Health News

Phil Leger, chair

Can't make paper out of plastic. That's the word from the V.P. of Operations at Newark America in Fitchburg. Newark America is the 2nd largest producer of recycled paper products in the U.S and where the paper that is collected at the recycling center goes. An ongoing problem is the number of plastic bags, foiled paper, and waxed paper that gets thrown into the paper roll-offs. This creates a huge problem at the facility which has to throw away an equivalent of 7 40-yard roll offs of non paper items daily.


So, what can we do?

First, keep the plastic out of the paper stream. Use paper bags to collect those newspapers. Be sure to empty out those cardboard boxes of styrofoam, plastic bags, twist ties and tyvek packing, etc. To recycle paper grain and animal food bags, check to see if there is a plastic lining, If so, tear out the plastic lining and then recycle the paper. If there is foil or waxed paper lining, don't recycle as the foil sets off alarms in the boxboard when it is used in the food industry and wax puts breaks in the paper.

Use reusable bags when shopping. If not, ask for paper which is 100% recyclable. If you must use plastic bags, bring them back to the stores where you got them or reuse them for trash or other uses. **DON'T THROW PLASTIC BAGS IN THE PAPER OR SINGLE RECYCLING CONTAINERS, PLEASE!** Plastic bags jam up the conveyor lines also causing equipment breakdowns and lost work time. Also, remember baling twine can't be made into paper.

Food contaminated paper is a problem too. Please remove the greasy, oily pizza cardboard prior to recycling. If the outer box is not contaminated with food waste, then it's okay to recycle.

We take newspaper, magazines, cardboard, boxboard, junk mail, envelopes, and any paper that tears and is not any of the above. . Let's all make an ongoing effort to keep the plastic, foil, wax, styrofoam, tyvek, food and food grease, (not to mention baling twine and string) out of the recycling stream. **REMEMBER, IF IT'S IN YOUR HAND, PUT IT IN THE RIGHT CAN!**

Fitchburg (978) 345-9200	The Anchorage
Gardner (978) 632-8889	Royalston, MA 01368
	(978) 249-2598
	
Mrs. Mary C. Barclay <i>School Committee/ Royalston Rep.</i>	
Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School 1050 Westminster Street, Fitchburg, MA 01420 www.montytech.net	

Phinehas S. Newton Library News

Kathy Morris, Library Director

Trustees: Polly Longworth, Lisa Freden, Barbara Guiney

Mondays: 10:00am - 8:30pm. Thursdays 1:00pm - 5:00pm and 6:30 - 8:30pm

Saturdays: 9:00am - 12:noon

978-249-3572 www.royalstonlibrary.org

Thank You to:

the **Royalston Cultural Council** for funding the Drawing Class with Gordon Morrison (31 people attended) and for the Rainforest Reptiles Program (over 100 people).

Edna and Rand Haven for *Caswell's History of Royalston*
Sonja Vaccari, Virginia Moore, Jes Willhite, Diana Newton and Priscilla Dand for book donations

Nancy Porter, producer, for the donation of her film: *'Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women'*

Donations to the Friends:

Benny and Susan Gronowicz
Polly and Chuck Longworth

Local Geology Program

Featuring Noted Geologist Richard Little

On Sunday, March 7th at 2:00 pm at the Town Hall Richard Little, Geology Professor Emeritus of Greenfield Community College, will present a program entitled "Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: the Geology of the Connecticut River Valley." The program will cover 600 million years of geologic history illustrating how the Connecticut Valley Region (including Royalston) evolved into the beautiful rocks and landscapes we see today. Richard will show us where we were before Pangea and how the break-up of this 'supercontinent' resulted in the Connecticut Valley. With humor and abundant illustrations, he will tell us about armored mud balls, dinosaurs, lava flows, glaciation, Lake Hitchcock, and our human links to our local geology. This program is generously funded by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council and sponsored by the Friends of the Phinehas S. Newton Library. Delicious refreshments will be served. For more information contact the library at 978-249-3572 or visit our website at www.royalstonlibrary.org.



Art Exhibit at the Library

During March and April the Library will exhibit Liane Brandon's vivid behind-the-scenes photographs taken during the shooting of the first film biography of Louisa May Alcott, which recently aired on PBS. The photographs capture the actors and crew at work at original locations – Orchard House, where Alcott wrote *Little Women: Fruitlands*, where her father founded a disastrous utopian community; and other historic sites. Photographer Liane Brandon is an award-winning independent filmmaker, photographer, and Professor Emeritus, University of Massachusetts at Amherst.



Kids' Cross Culture Club

NB: In order not to overlap with the after-school basketball program at RCS, the cross culture club has pushed back its dates a bit from the schedule published last month.

Learn about the world at your library as guests from around the world show a bit about their home culture, including geographic features, songs, games, language, and food. This year's program meets weekly on Thursdays from 3:30 - 4:30 pm. at the library. Students from RCS can take the bus with a written note. All welcome. Free. The line up includes visits to:

March 18 **Surinam** with Elizabeth Farnsworth, who will have just returned from this northern South American country.

April 1 **Bosnia** with Athol High School exchange student and musician Edin Huljdek.

April 8 **Italy** with Patrizia DeLibero, a noble Roman

April 15 **China** with recent immigrant Yi Chi, an Athol High School student.

Regional Library Systems in Jeopardy

There is a proposal before the Massachusetts legislature to merge all the Regional Library Systems into one organization on July 1, 2010. All of you who have ordered books that have come from out-of-state or country, participated in the Summer Reading Program, utilized the online databases in the library or at home, seen the colorful posters, certificates, bookmarks, and other items distributed each year, know about the free professional development for staff and Trustees, noticed the up-to-date technical assistance, or remarked at a DVD repair, know what the Region can do. The Region has been instrumental in helping the library automate its card catalog, providing the system and staff training as well as loaning equipment such as barcode scanners and providing assistance purchasing necessary technology. It's important to know that our library staff can call and speak to people who have been to our library and know us, our town and our library. If the new proposal passes, the "regional assistance" may come from people who could just as well be in India for all they know about us and our library. Please contact our legislators today to preserve the current regional library system: Senator Stephen Brewer, State House, Room 109-B, Boston, MA 02133, (617) 722-1540, or Stephen.Brewer@state.ma.gov and Robert Rice, 39 State House, Boston, MA 02133-1054, (617)722-2014 or 95 Pleasant Street, Room 209, Gardner, MA 01330-2630, (978)630-1990, or Rep.RobertRice@Hou.State.

Adult Fiction

Blake, Sarah *The Postmistress*
 Charyn, Jerome *The Secret Life of Emily Dickinson*
 Collins, Jackie *Poor Little Bitch Girl*
 DeLillo, Don *Point Omega*
 Erdrich, Louise *Shadow Tag*
 Hamilton, Laurell *K.Flirt*
 Hannah, Kristin *Winter Garden*
 Harper, Karen *Down River*
 Hobb, Robin *Dragon Keeper*
 Koontz, Dean *Demon Seed*
 Koontz, Dean *TickTock*
 Lee, Janice *The Piano Teacher*
 Mawer, Simon *The Glass Room*
 Palmer, Michael *The Last Surgeon*
 Patterson, James *Worst Case*
 Ross, Ann *Miss Julia Takes Over (Large Print)*
 Scalzi, Simon *The God Engines*
 Stone, Katherine *The Other Twin (Large Print)*
 Straub, Peter *A Dark Matter*
 Trigiani, Adriana *Brava, Valentine*

DVD's: *21; Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging; Barbie Princess Tales; Couples Retreat; Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon; Dawn Patrol; Handy Manny; Inglorious Bastards; Louisa May Alcott; Maiden Heist; Matilda; Paper Heart; Scooby-Doo! In Arabian Nights; Sid the Science Kid; The Time Traveler's Wife; The Women ; What Happens in Vegas; Whip it; and Wizards of Waverly Place*

Adult Non-Fiction

Berry, Wendell *Imagination in Place*
 Cohen, David *Nelson Mandela*
 Cullina, William *Understanding Perennials*
 Gottlieb, Lori *Marry Him*
 Heilemann, John *Game Change*
 Holm, Johanna *Baron's GED Math Workbook*
 Kleh, Cindy *Snowboarding Skills*
 Peterson, Brenda *I Want to Be Left Behind*
 Scicolone, Michele *The Italian Slow Cooker*
 Sehlinger, Bob *The Unofficial Guide to Walt Disney World 2010*
 Selby, Scott Andrew *Flawless*
 Skloot, Rebecca *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*
 Specter, Michael *Denialism*
 Stewart, Martha *Martha Stewart's Cookies*
 Stewart, Martha *Martha Stewart's Cupcakes*
 Van Silkye, Caren *GED*

Adult Audiobooks

Bohjalian, Christopher *Secrets of Eden*
 Cornwell, Patricia *Scarpetta*

Music CD's

Beyonce *I am Sasha Fierce*
 Bieber, Justin *My World*
 Buble, Michael *Michael Buble*
 Clapton, Eric *The Cream of Clapton*
 Joplin, Janis *Janis Joplin's Greatest Hits*
 Lady Antebellum *Need You Now*
 Rucker, Darius *Learn to Live*
 Simon & Garfunkel *The Best of*

Library Receives Grant

The Library has received a Collection Development grant from the Central Massachusetts regional Library for \$1,000 to purchase books-on-CD. Thirty-nine libraries applied for funds under this program and Royalston was chosen to receive a grant. If you are an audiobook listener and would like to make suggestions, stop by the library, give us a call, or email or mail us to let us know your preferences.

Book Review

Marnie Anair recommends the Harry Potter series. Marnie was a little young for the books when they were first written but has recently discovered them. Her mom, Lynn, reports that when Marnie finished the 3rd book (*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*) she came bounding into the room and announced that she was ready to start the fourth book, *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, and asked if Lynn knew how many pages were in the book. When Lynn said no, Marnie replied with great excitement, "Seven hundred and thirty-four pages of JOY." What better recommendation could be given?

New Materials at the Library

Young Adult Fiction

Bell, Hilari *Player's Ruse*
 McMann, Lisa *Gone*

Children's Fiction

Boyce, Frank Cottrell *Cosmic*
 Brett, Jan *The Easter Egg*
 Dunrea, Olivier *Ollie's Easter Eggs*
 Hays, Anna *Spring Surprises*
 Johnson, Dinah *Black Magic*
 Lerangis, Peter *The Viper's Nest*
 O'Connor, Jane *Everyday is Earth Day*
 O'Connor, Jane *Fancy Nancy*
 O'Connor, Jane *The 100th Day of School*
 Osborne, Mary Pope *Leprechaun in Late Winter*
 Rockwell, Anne *St. Patrick's Day*
 Willems, Mo *I am Going!*

Children's Non-Fiction

George, Jean Craighead *The Wolves are Back*
 Pinkney, Andrea *Sit-in*
 Shelton, Paula Young *Child of the Civil Rights Movement*

Obituaries

Michael K. St.Onge, 60, of 64 Athol-Richmond Rd., died Sunday, Feb. 14, 2010, at the Athol Memorial Hospital after being stricken ill at his home. Michael was born in Huntington, Calif., Feb. 1, 1950, the son of Walter H. and Therese (Bourgess) St.Onge. While growing up he lived in many places, including Japan, Lybia, London, Missouri, California and Massachusetts as his father was in the military. He graduated from Chicopee Comprehensive High School in



1968. He lived in Leominster for many years and for the past 20 years has resided in Royalston. Michael served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War and also served with the Massachusetts National Guard for 10 years. He worked for the L.S. Starrett Company for many years, and prior to his retirement he was the head of the Securatis Security Company working at Starrett's. He was an EMT for the Montachusett Ambulance in Fitchburg for several years. He served on the Cemetery Commission for the Town of Royalston for several years.

He was a member of Central Congregational Church, a great game player, an avid Red Sox fan, and a former coach and board member of the Chuck Stone Little League; he also enjoyed camping, visiting many places in the United States and Canada

He was very involved in music and theater all of his life, active in many local minstrel shows, the Barre Players Theater, along with playing at several area coffee shops. He also composed his own music, and played the guitar. Besides Michael's music and theatre, he enjoyed spending time with his family especially his grandchildren.

Michael leaves his wife of 25 years, Dorena Stewart-St.Onge; two sons, Marc Winer and his wife Michelle, of Agawam, and Joshua Winer and his companion Michele Judge of Philadelphia, Penn.; a daughter, Caissie Debenham and her husband Matthew, of West Port, Conn.; four grandchildren, Eli and Lincoln Debenham, and Mara and Michael Winer. He also leaves three brothers, Geoffrey St.Onge and his wife Pamela of Fitchburg, Tim St.Onge and his wife Lisa of Baldwinville, and John St.Onge and his wife Rosemary of Leominster; two sisters, Lisa Puntillo of Fitchburg and Tina Virkler and her husband Don of Gardner.

He also leaves his mother-in-law and father-in-law Dot and Ken Stewart of Royalston and many nieces and nephews and many grand nieces and nephews.

Alice V. (Mieruniski) Landon, 97, formerly of South Royalston, died Sunday, Feb. 21, 2010 in the Lifecare Center of Leominster.

She was born in Pittsburgh, Penn., on Feb. 5, 1913, the daughter of the late Stanislaus and the late Alexandria (Stelmach) Mieruniski. Mrs. Landon was raised and educated in Pennsylvania and had resided in South Royalston for 57 years.

She was a homemaker for most of her life and was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Church where she was the sacristan for many years. She leaves her daughter, Roberta Brodeur of Fitchburg. She was predeceased by her husband of forty-seven years, Edward Landon, in 1971.



A private burial in Maple Cemetery, Royalston will be held at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions be made in her memory to the St. Jude Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, Tenn., 38105.

A Calling to Sacred Places

Why are some places considered sacred? What does sacred mean and why are millions of people attracted to special space all over the world? On Friday, March 26 at 7 pm. at the Royalston library, there is an opportunity to travel through the eyes of a pilgrim who is led by an inner calling to places where the sacredness is a real experience. From Tibet to Nepal, India, Uzbekistan, the Middle East, and Africa. Patrizia De Libero, talks about her experience on journeys to the East. Originally from Italy, Patrizia De Libero (or as she notes, "now for the help of Grace, Patrizia Brown") is a newlywed Royalston resident and pilgrim who helps people organizing journeys to sacred places connected to the Christian tradition



for the Vatican. She will also discuss places connected to her personal travelling and researching before being employed by the Vatican. These places are connected to the Sufi, Sikh, and Buddhist traditions. Free. Refreshments served. Sponsored by the Friends of the Library.



CONGRATULATIONS AND GOOD NEWS

Got something to crow about? Send it along to the RCN. Zap to chasegos@gis.net or drop at library.

Academic Honor Rolls

Royalston Community School

Straight As: Olivia Kimball, Kariana Tobias, Ann Reynolds, and Dahlia Wright; *all A's and B's:* Cody Bassett, Haylie Baker, Hannah Bartkus, Justin Blake, Alyssa Cassarino, James Laford, Alyana LaJoie, Abby Divoll, Amber Mahony, Erin Snell, Allisyn Mowrey, Owen MacPhee, Rebecca Tetreault, Deijah Euvrard-Brewington, Isabelle O'Connor, Ryan Warner, Derek Bates, Kristopher Selanis, Katelyn Holden, Destiny Wrigley, Loryn Killay, Melissa Persson, Rhiannon Fletcher, Kiley LeBlanc, and Taryne Bousquet; *most improved:* Zachary Roberts

Athol-Royalston Middle School

All A's and B's: Corey Baker, Gabriel Jarvenpaa, Andrea Linnus, Brandon Tisdale, Michael Findlay, Beau Guimond, Emily Mangum, Cody Nolette, and Felicia Tourigny

Athol High School: *Straight A's:* MacKenzie Bennett and Ashley Javier; *Honors:* Alyssa Bergquist, Catie Brighenti, Noah Easton, Allison Bergquist, Shelby Bronnes, Patrick Scribner, Hillary Whitcomb, Ashley Guyer, Samantha Hutchins, Joseph Riddell, and Michele Thompson.

High School Musicals: Watch as Royalston's **Noah Easton** musically laments "What's the Matter with Kids Today" and dozens of other denizens perform in the Athol High production of the 1961 camp classic *Bye Bye Birdie* at 7 pm on March 26 and 27. Also, **Asher Chase** is featured as Peter, singing, dancing and musically denying Christ not once, but three times, in Cushing Academy's production of the rock opera *Jesus Christ Superstar* at 7 pm on March 4 and 8 pm March 5 and 6. **Ben West** soldiers on in *Mulan*, the Theater at the Mount children's show April 13 - 17. Monty Tech's Drama Club has a production of *Once On This Island* on March 5 - 7.

The Pride In The Arts Awards recently announced that Royalston singer/songwriter Linq (Diane Lincoln) is one of the five nominees for Musical Artist of 2009 for her GLBT activism. The Pride In The Arts Program is part of the StoneWall Society network, and winners will be announced in March.

Military News

A commemoration of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima was held in Boston, complete with a parade. Monty Tech's Jr. ROTC mounted color guard was a part of the event, with their advisor, **Brenda L. Putney**, and riders **Amy Putney** and **Amanda Putney**.

Recipe of the Month

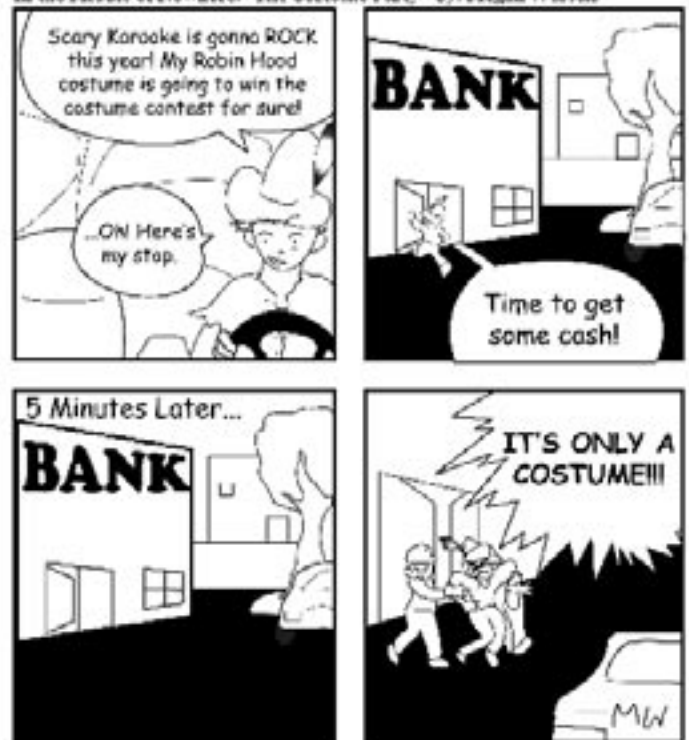
Rose Lawrence offers her recipe for Tuscan Chicken Torta, an easy dish that looks like the cook put a lot of effort into, this month. She recommends serving with a veggie (or broccoli slaw with craisins and slivered almonds) and a glass of wine. This recipe requires a springform pan.

Ingredients

1 can (15 oz) cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
 1 1/3 cup original Bisquick
 1/3 cup Italian dressing
 1 1/2 cups diced cooked chicken
 1 pkg (10 oz) frozen spinach, thawed and squeezed to drain
 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
 3 eggs
 1 1/4 cups milk
 1/3 cups slivered almonds
 Rose also adds artichoke hearts and fresh-sauteed mushrooms

Heat oven to 375 degrees. Mash beans in a medium bowl. Stir in Bisquick and dressing. Spread in bottom and two inches up side of ungreased springform pan, 9x 13 inches. Bake 10 - 12 minutes until set. Now, layer chicken, spinach and cheese over crust. Mix eggs and milk (as well as artichokes and mushrooms if desired); pour over cheese. Sprinkle almonds evenly over top. Bake uncovered 55 minutes or until golden brown and knife inserted near center of the pan comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes. With a knife, loosen edge of torta from side of pan and then, remove the side of the pan. Enjoy!

In the Middle of Nowhere: "The Costume Party" by Megan Weisels



ed note: The cartoonist says, "Not sure if we really have costume parties or "Scary Karaoke Nights" at the Town Hall. Whether we do or not, enjoy this comic!" Perhaps it's a suggestion to the cultural council?

Greek Fables at Town Hall



On Monday, March 8 from 1-3pm, Norah Dooley returns to the Town Hall to bring Greek theater to life for 10-12 year olds. Norah will perform the story of Antigone, in the tradition of Ancient Greek theater. She will tell 5 fables, and then break students into groups, helping them write their own five-minute version of a Greek tragedy or comedy. The students will use many of the same components and conventions

of the original Greek playwrights, with updated plots and characters. The children will then perform their 5 minute plays. This is an opportunity for children to learn more about the underpinnings of theater, and the traditions of, for example, comedy and tragedy, that are still used today.

The Royalston Community School older classes are invited, as well as home school students. It will start promptly at 1:00 pm.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Royalston Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, and supported in part by the Village School.

Annual Egg Hunt and Chocolate Melting on April 3

The Royalston Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 3, at the Royalston Town Hall, rain or shine. Those who participate should dress for the weather. In the event of heavy rain, the hunt will be moved indoors. Participants should also bring a plastic bag or basket, marked with their names, for collecting their eggs.

Following a group photo at 10:00, event organizer Rene' Lake-Gagliardi will give the word and the eager egg hunters will begin to search the Royalston Common for more than 2000 candy-filled eggs. After the egg hunt itself, participants will return to the Town Hall where more than twenty pounds of melted chocolate will be available to mold into a variety of familiar shapes. According to local rumor, Mr. Bunny may make a special appearance at the hunt.

The annual egg hunt is a community project, organized by Lake-Gagliardi for the past 11 years and supported by many generous contributors and volunteers. Supporters this year include the Royalston Cultural Council. Donations to offset the cost of candy and plastic eggs are especially welcome this year as several hundred of the plastic eggs need to be replaced. Those who wish to contribute may leave their donations at the Phinehas S. Newton Library or the Royalston General Store. In addition to cash contributions, people may also donate candy. All candy must be individually wrapped and the individual pieces must be small enough to fit into the plastic eggs. Each year, the plastic eggs are returned and recycled for use in the following year. Everyone's support in this effort allows the event to continue to grow. *Donations must be received no later than March 19 since the volunteers who stuff the eggs will need time to do so before the big event. Volunteers who are willing to help on the day of the hunt may contact Rene' at 978-249-4639.*

Ladies' B.

January and February were quiet, with a couple of informal "Craft'n'Chat" socials, and the first meeting and program of 2010, but the Ladies' B. will be stepping lively during the month of March. A St. Patrick's Supper is planned for Saturday, March 13 at 6 p.m. in the Town Hall, and after dessert, a Pot'o'Gold drawing for a little bucket filled with \$100 in brand new gold dollar coins! Enjoy Adams' Farm special recipe corned beef, along with traditional vegetables and homemade desserts. Tickets are \$12/adults and \$5/children and tickets are limited to 125 eat-in and take out meals. Also, March 31 Craft'n'Chat Social is planned to wrap up supper details and begin work on the LBS's 16th annual Royalston Blood Donor Day. 2010 Program Guides are now available. Non-members may obtain one by contacting mbarclay@juno.com or 978-249-2598. Anyone interested in a program is invited to attend that program. New members welcomed any time of the year.



Royalston Fish and Game Club News

First, a correction: The Royalston F&G is open on Tuesdays and Fridays, from 5:30 p.m.-ish to about midnight. Pitch teams sign up the first Tuesday of the New Year and the day after Labor Day. There's a One-Day Pitch Tournament March 21 – bring your partner and be there for 1 p.m. Friday nights are Poker Tournaments. Third Saturdays (more or less) are Roast Beef Supper nites (supper seats are gone for March 20) followed by BLITZ for all. Drop in about 6:30 p.m. to play BLITZ. The Hunter Safety Program is underway now and fully subscribed. During open hours, Club reps can be reached at 978-249-3004; Vice President Clayton Holmes says he can be reached at 978-249-4281 for info when the Club's closed.

Winchendon Rod and Gun Club



(In Royalston – past RCS on Winchendon Rd.)

Fish Fryday – Fri., March 13. 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Deep-fried haddock, shrimp and/or scallops are served with fresh, hand-cut French fries and cole slaw. Children are welcome; sharing one of the gignunda meals is quite common (the haddock is a 12-16 oz serving, for example). The bar is open with a full range of beverages. Start time can be as late as 5:30 p.m. and when the food's gone, the doors close. Call the club at 978-297-3955 for tickets or buy at the door.

Athol High School Events

March is a busy month at AHS. A Red Cross Blood Drive, sponsored by the National Honor Society is planned for March 8. The Spring Concert is scheduled for March 16 at 6:30 PM. A Home Show is booked for Saturday, March 20, The final calendar date of events is a dance to be held at the Athol Town Hall on March 30 at 6:30 PM with proceeds benefiting the band uniform fundraising.

Pictured: Royalston's Noah Easton and Vincent Germano ponder puberty, Mussolini and respect in the upcoming Athol High Drama Club production of Bye, Bye Birdie to be presented on March 26 and 27 at 7:00 PM



A-REF Announces Grants

The Athol-Royalston Education Foundation recently announced its 2nd round of grants for 2010 toward enrichment projects in the local public schools, bringing the total to 10 grants spread among all six Athol-Royalston Regional School District schools.

These include funding for:

- *Putting the music in the high school musical - local musicians perform as the pit band in *Bye Bye Birdie*

- *David Polanski, children's musician - teaches rhythm and dance to the under ten set

- *Snow Shoe Adventures - a class set of snow shoes to be used in gym class and for an after-school club at RCS

- *Tom Riccardi, bird rehabilitator - brings owls and raptors for an all school presentation on a May afternoon.

- *Magic in Music - a 3rd and 4th grade choir travels to a senior center and other elementary schools to put on a really big show

- *ARMS Multicultural Festival - student generated art, entertainment, and food highlighting the diversity and similarity of the human experience

- *Nature Buddies - a collaboration of first graders and seniors to visit local farms and protected lands

- *Family Clay Night and Family Painting Night at RCS - materials and instruction for a couple of hands-on nights where students, parents, and siblings cooperate and get creative

- *Folk Dance Around the World - Community presentations and classroom lessons with the acclaimed Mladost Folk Ensemble

- *Nature Club - Six weeks of elementary after-school adventures

The Athol-Royalston Education Foundation is a group of local residents and community members who work to bring opportunities to children in the Athol Royalston Regional School District by promoting community involvement and by fundraising. Visit the web-site www.a-ref.org, recently re-designed by Barbara Stowell, for information how to get involved or become a member. Also, watch for upcoming A-REF fundraising events like the Father-Daughter Dance on May 7th.

The Village School News

This month is lambing and sugaring month at the school. We put in a few taps on the tree on the corner by the Post Office, and the kindergarten class collects sap daily, enjoying sips of this spring treat. We will be singing our favorite sugaring and pancake songs in All School Sing. Later in the month, we hope to go to the Richardson Farm and help collect sap and see new lambs (and enjoy pancakes with fresh maple syrup!). Science Night is on March 24, and the 4th-6th graders look forward to presenting their experiments.

Openings for next year: There are openings in the classes for next year, including preschool. If you are interested, call to schedule a visit as soon as possible, to observe a classroom, meet teachers, and set up a child visit. 978 249-3505. For more info, go to www.villageschool.to

Monty Tech News

Monty Tech has created an ad-hoc committee to explore the feasibility of opening a Post Graduate Cooking School. It would be in a stand-alone facility, and geared for adults looking for a career change, as well as for comprehensive and voc-tech school graduates who wished to train in culinary arts.

The \$20,000 Bio-diesel grant accepted last year is being used to convert a 14 passenger bus into a mini-classroom on wheels, which will be used to share information about a Monty Tech education with potential students. It will run on waste grease from Monty Tech's own kitchen and can also run on purchased bio-diesel and diesel fuels. Photovoltaic cells applied to the roof will power the flat screen monitor and DVD player, and the outside will highlight Monty Tech's involvement in the "Green Movement."

March Calendar

3/3	7 p.m. Monty Tech SchoolCom Meets
3/4	6 p.m. Monty Tech Winter Sports Awards
3/18	6:30 p.m. Monty Tech School Council Meets
3/24	5 p.m. Monty Tech's Sundaes on Wednesday
	6 p.m. Monty Tech's Annual Open House and Classic Car Show (foul weather date Thursday)

Native Groundcovers and Mosses

Thursday, March 18, 2010,

The North Quabbin Garden Club is pleased to welcome noted landscape designer Laura D. Eisener as our guest speaker this month. She will show us how native groundcovers and mosses can add color, texture, and interest to our landscapes and replace higher maintenance lawns or other plantings. She will suggest plants for sun and shade that can solve a wide range of landscape problems. Ms. Eisener is an Arnold Arboretum instructor, the president of Hort Resources, and an associate editor of People, Places, Plants magazine. Meet with us at the Millers River Environmental Center, 100 Main Street in Athol, MA at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2010.

An affiliate of the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol, the North Quabbin Garden Club formed in 2006 to encourage interest in all phases of home gardening. With efforts to promote better horticultural practices and foster civic beauty, emphasis is placed on use of native plants, organic gardening, and the conservation of natural resources. Monthly meetings are usually held on the third Thursday evening of each month featuring informative speakers or workshop sessions. Members are currently working on a wild-life habitat garden at the Millers River Environmental Center and planning their annual spring sale of perennial plants and specialty items. Guests and new members are always welcome, so join us this month and learn something new about gardening. Meetings are free to members and guests are asked for a \$5 donation.

Signs of Spring

Maple trees were tapped on February 20th; snow fleas, a kind of springtail that doesn't bite, congregate on the sunny side of tree trunks; for at least a month the chickadee has been singing the descending two note tune "phee-beee" rather than its winter "chick-a-dee-dee-dee-dee" song; and most noticeably it is light when the alarm goes off at 6 in the morning and the sun doesn't set until around 6 pm. Even if there is a big snow, it cannot abide the strength of the March sun. Royalston has made it through another winter. Now, can our cars endure another frost heave season?

Skunks everywhere! Recent non-freezing evenings have featured a variety of patterns of the black and white creatures toddling up, down and across roadways. Visits by raccoon are also becoming more frequent.

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Garden Notes

February 21, 2010

I do not do well with winter. It is not the snow and cold; that comes with the territory. Rather, it is the enforced indoorness, the inability to accomplish much outdoors. There are moments with the chainsaw, but as the snow piles up those moments become fewer and fewer. Snow is shoveled (remember snow shovels?) but not often enough to keep me busy. Cabin fever. I wonder why it is referred to as fever; there is nothing feverish about our minimally-heated 'cabin.'

Soon enough the cobwebs will be shed from body and mind and winter will have become a distant memory. As unlikely as it appears as I glance out the window, March always promises some garden activities (mod-Digging parsnips is continued well-rooted treat to pull and con-garden. I always leave soon begin re-growth tall, well-branched yellow flowers (think become filled with seed seeds drop, germinate and my new crop is underway. The parsnip plot has pulled this off for longer than I can remember.



As soon as practical, I remove the hay mulch from beds requiring early planting, opening up the soil to the sun (higher in the sky every day) and the wind (persisting as it has), the primary goal being to dry the soil enough so that I can plant. Wet soil is the bane of the spring garden. It is difficult to work, almost impossible to break up the clods of soil enough to result in a seed bed. I am fortunate: most of my gardens are well-situated on upward slopes and have been built upon an essentially sandy soil, both of which aid in the drying process. Many of you, though, are not so well situated and must wait until the soil is sufficiently dry. (Even if that means you don't produce the first tomato in the neighborhood.)

There have even been times when I have planted peas in March, though never with any particular success, primarily because germination was so low. Now I wait till the second week in April, a much kinder time for the pea seeds.

The mulch is also pulled off the beds which were still green when covered late last fall (spinach, parsley, and scallions) and survival varies from year-to-year, though there's usually enough spinach to see us through until the spring planting starts to bear.

Reaching an impasse in this column, I wandered over to the garden, seeking some inspiration. Alas, there was none. No open ground. Plants above snow line were limited to broccoli and kale and they were dead. Not a very inviting sight. But the sun felt warm, bouncing off the whiteness of the snow and in spite of the incessant north wind. And the sap is flowing (the Richardsons put out their taps yesterday; I have yet to emerge from the thinking-about-it stage) and that has always represented for me the crossover between winter and spring.



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Classifieds

I am looking to see if anyone is interested in a joining, (forming), a **co-op of some sort to purchase wood pellets** in sufficient quantity to get low prices. They could contact me at home or leave message, 978-249-4587. Thanks for any help. Roland Hamel

Lil Farmers' Daycare: licensed daycare in on Winchendon Rd in Royalston next to RCS. Open from 7 a.m .until 6 pm Mon - Fri. Call 978-575-1083 .

Firewood - \$180/170 cubic feet for green, cut, split and delivered locally. Limited supply of semi-seasoned and fully seasoned. Call for prices. Leave message for Jim at Putney's Mill, 978-249-3379.

Royalston Community Coop

If the \$1,000 minimum was met, the February 25 orders will arrive March 4. The Royalston Community Coop is accepting a limited number of new families – participants must have internet access to submit orders; most communication is done by e-mail. For additional details, please send an e-mail with COOP Membership in the subject line to royalston_community_news@yahoo.com.

The Royalston Community Newsletter
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